

Communities of Practice: A Thinking Environment Evaluation

EDUCATION & TRAINING
FOUNDATION

There will be a presentation on the Communities of Practice (CoP) strand at the Conference.

The Communities of Practice strand was a leap of faith by all parties which turned into an adventure. Fifty Advanced Practitioners signed-up to an emerging model which began as an online space for Action Learning Sets and ended up being so much more. Using the format of a Thinking Environment round, accompanied by images and soundbites, five Community of Practice members evaluate this genuinely co-produced experiment. They are:

Andy Crissell, Advanced Practitioner, South Essex College
Punam Khosla, Communities of Practice Co-Lead
Lou Mycroft, Communities of Practice Co-Lead
Jo McGee, Advanced Practitioner, South Essex College
Steven Spence, Advanced Practitioner, Sheffield College

The CoP programme strand included the following elements.

- APs scoping and working on a small-scale quality improvement project within their organisation throughout the project, with the project focus stipulated as part of the application process.
- APs attending a virtual [induction session](#) where they met the wider CoP community as well as members of their action learning set.
- Regular action learning set meetings facilitated through a range of digital technologies including but not limited to Zoom, Skype, Big Blue Button (via Canvas) and logistically supported by Punam.
- A structured programme of activities arranged in seven online learning modules, delivered via Canvas, with the award of digital badges upon completion.
 - M1: Knowing You, Knowing Us
 - M2: Your Project
 - M3: Professional Standards
 - M4: Action Learning Sets
 - M5: Matrix of Opportunities
 - M6: Connecting APs event
 - M7: Who are your People?
- A face-to-face event in response to AP demand.



Find out more by accessing the CoP section of the programme's monthly [newsletters](#).

Extract from 2019 National AP Conference Booklet